

International Council on Archives Quadrennial Conference

Seoul, South Korea, 5-10 September 2016

Archives, Harmony and Friendship: ensuring cultural
sensitivity, justice and cooperation in a globalised world

The International Council on Archives Quadriennial Congress, in Seoul, South Korea, from 5-11 September 2016, will consider the theme of “Archives, Harmony and Friendship.” In keeping with the theme of archives, harmony and friendship, records and archives professionals around the world are encouraged to submit proposals on the conference themes, which include: the changing nature of recordkeeping in the digital age; opportunities for cooperation within and outside of the archival milieu; the uses of and role of archives in support of truth, justice and reconciliation; and opportunities for harmony and friendship in archival endeavours. The conference will also include presentations on the topic of native peoples and their relationship both to their own records and archives and to the work of non-native communities in recordkeeping and archives management. Presentations will also explore management of records and archives in the Korean context as well as the initiatives and achievements of ICA members around the world. Finally, the conference will also provide a forum for new professionals to present their thoughts on records and archives issues. The goal of the conference is not only to address challenges but also look for opportunities and achievements: to build a framework for continuing harmony and friendship across the archival world.

Programme themes

1. Recordkeeping in the Digital Age

Recordkeeping in the digital age poses many challenges. It is increasingly important, but ever more difficult, to ensure that digital records are secure, accessible and authentic, and that they retain their documentary integrity regardless of the governmental, social or business contexts in which they are created, managed and used. Presentations addressing the theme of recordkeeping in the digital age will explore questions such as the following: how to ensure that records professionals communicate and collaborate with other key stakeholders, for example records creators or representatives of the information technology industry; how to ensure legislative and regulatory frameworks are in harmony with the core requirements for accountable digital recordkeeping; how to balance risks and benefits in the management of records and archives to ensure their protection and access over time; how to ensure that digital records and archives retain their value as tools for good governance and accountability as well as sources of collective identity and memory; and how to balance and address the increasingly serious threat to information security in cyberspace against the increasingly high demand for access to information online.

2. Cooperation

Cooperation and collaboration are essential components of the management of records and archives. Presentations addressing this theme will consider issues such as the following: how to ensure the seamless, balanced management of documentary evidence in both analogue and digital records; how to encourage collaboration between archival institutions and their sister professions, including, but not limited to, librarianship, information technology management, museology, heritage management, and so on; and how to recognise and respect different archival cultures and approaches, from analogue to digital and ancient to modern. Presentations may also include discussions of new and different models for cooperation and collaboration across cultural institutions or examples of partnerships between recordkeeping institutions and allied organisations in other sectors.

3. Use of records and archives in justice, advocacy and reconciliation work

There is a growing awareness around the world of the role of records in addressing human rights abuses, as evidenced through the many examples of national and state initiatives to support processes of “truth and reconciliation” in the aftermath of discriminations or human rights violations. Justice and reconciliation depend on the existence of and open access to trustworthy records, as well as trust in the mechanisms used to create, preserve and make available evidence and testimony about the events in question. Presentations in this theme will reflect on questions of how archives and records professionals support justice by protecting records and archives and ensuring proper access is available. Presentations will also encourage discussion of archives and records in the contexts of conflict and human rights abuses around the world, such as the role of records and archives in providing a full picture of the past conflicts/wars and in achieving a shared memory/memories and reconciliation between the different parties involved. Presentations will also address the wider question of how the archives sector can help support the preservation of and access to evidence and the protection of documentary memory as tools for accountability and harmony in times of conflict.

4. Harmony and friendship in the global archives world

In today’s digital world, information moves seamlessly across borders. Just as seamlessly, people working in one country need access to records and archives in another country, whether or not these documentary resources are electronic. In this borderless archival world, there is a growing demand for information in forms that can move easily from one jurisdiction to another. There is also an increasing challenge to protect private and corporate information from inappropriate disclosure, while supporting globalism in such diverse areas as international business, international respect for religious practices, and the application of law internationally. Presentations in this theme will examine the trend of globalism and the impact of the borderless society on records and archives management. Presentations will also shed light on the future of archives in a world of global commerce, international law, and increasingly borderless institutions – from businesses to cultural, religious and social groups.

5. Diversity and harmony among archival cultures and societies

Around the world, there is increasing recognition of the cultural, social and economic challenges facing nations and states which include within their borders both indigenous native populations and communities of immigrants. From an archival perspective, these challenges are reflected in sociocultural differences between, for example, indigenous recordkeeping and state or government records and archives processes. Presentations in this theme will consider the nature of any differences in the work of, and challenges of, records and archives management undertaken by native peoples in comparison with non-native institutions, such as government or corporate archives. Presentations will also consider different archival traditions, native and non-native, in different jurisdictions, and will offer suggestions and solutions for increasing harmony between native and non-native records and archives communities in countries around the world. Presentations may also address the wider question of identity – native, non-native, community, or otherwise – and the role of records and archives in addressing tensions arising from the intersections of different identities in a society.

6. Korean Archives and Records Management

Traditionally, Korea has an excellent documentary heritage, with notable examples such as the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty and the Royal Secretariat Diaries. Nowadays, with advanced ICT technology, The Korean government and private companies are trying to develop and operate electronic records and archives management systems in many areas of public and private business.

The ICA Congress in Seoul in 2016 is a unique opportunity to identify and showcase Korea's special issues, challenges, successes and achievements in records and archives management and to share them with the international archives and records management community. This session welcomes proposals on the following and related topics

- Preservation and use of traditional records in Korea:
 - Traditional preservation
 - How to use the documentary heritage
 - Case studies (for example the 3D digitisation of Korean traditional records)
- New trends in electronic records and archives management and the use of ICT in Korean government and private sectors
 - LOD (Linked Open Data), Open Data, Information Risk Management
 - BRM (Business Reference Model), On-nara System (Business Process System), RMS (Records Management System), CAMS (Central Archives Management System)

7. New Professionals

The ICA offers new professionals an opportunity to explore issues related to the overarching conference theme of archives, harmony and friendship. Presentations in this theme will give new professionals a forum for presenting on issues, challenges and successes that they identify as important to their professional development and their daily work in the archival profession.

8. Celebration of Achievements of the ICA Network since 2012

This Congress offers members an opportunity to highlight achievements, present initiatives and introduce products developed across the ICA Network since the last Congress in Brisbane, Australia, in 2012. Presentations are encouraged from ICA entities – including sections, branches, expert groups, working groups, the Programme Commission and FAN – to showcase their work.